



EPA to Begin Cleanup Activities at the Tidewater Bailing site

Community Update

January 2008

EPA will begin cleanup activities of contaminated soil and a baler pit at the Tidewater Bailing site. This work will begin in early February and continue through late Spring.

Recent activity:

- Additional drilling occurred at the site to determine the extent of contamination in parts of the site such as the soil and the baler pit.

GLOSSARY

Remedial Investigation:

Studies conducted to determine the nature and extent of contamination.

Feasibility Study:

A study to determine what the cleanup alternative will be for the site.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will begin site cleanup at the Tidewater Bailing site located at 26 St. Charles Street in Newark, New Jersey. Recently, testing was conducted at the site to gain additional information regarding the contaminated site soils and the baler pit. EPA anticipates this cleanup to occur during early February through late Spring.

HISTORY AND BACKGROUND

The site is located in a mixed residential and commercial portion of Newark, Essex County, New Jersey. The property is a long narrow parcel, approximately 2.5 acres in size, bordered by Conrail to the north, St. Charles Street to the west, and the Ironbound Recreation Center to the south. Residences line the opposite end of St. Charles Street and the adjoining street. The closest residence is approximately 100 feet from the site. A number of industrial facilities are present north of the site.

Tidewater Bailing began operating in 1945. It processed and compacted a variety of ferrous and nonferrous scrap metal, including drums, automobiles, transformers, and industrial scrap for recycling. Poor housekeeping and oil spills for the operations impacted the site and a portion of the adjoining ball field. It is believed that operation at the site ceased at least several years ago.

There are four derelict, brick structures on the site; an office, a garage and a storage building all located near St. Charles Street, and a two story building on the eastern end. An old baled that was used to process the scrap metal is situated to the east of the storage building. The "New" baler, which was constructed in 1957, is located near the eastern end of the site. The baler pit is constructed of concrete and extends approximately three stories below grade. The pit was used to contain any oil that was released during the baling operations. The water and oil that accumulated in the pit was pumped into an aboveground storage tank to allow the oil and water to separate.

EPA encourages public participation. If you have questions or would like additional information, please contact:

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Hotline at 1-800-346-5009

SITE REPOSITORY ??????

- Repository address
- If applicable, another place to mention website



The water was then discharged on to the ground and the oil reportedly re-used in the baled hydraulic system.

In 1986, Tidewater Baling Corporation reportedly excavated soil contaminated with PCBs and heavy metals from the scoreboard area of the ball field but failed to address the source. EPA performed a CERCLA removal action at the site in 1989 which included construction of limited fencing in the scoreboard area of the recreational center and placement of beams and booms to restrict migration of oily discharges into and out of this area. Sampling conducted by EPA revealed elevated levels of heavy metals and PCBs in the soils, and in the oil being used in the process.

In 1990, the company signed an Administrative Order on Consent (AOC) with EPA to address the baler, initiate remedial action and pay Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) penalties. The facility reportedly continued to impact both on-site and off-site areas. In 1992, the company signed an AOC with the NJDEP to conduct a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (see glossary) and to remediate the contamination. A Remedial Action Work Plan was approved by the NJDEP in 1997 which called for a limited excavation of 2,000 tons to an approximate four foot depth. This action was never implemented by the company.

In May 2005, the NJDEP initiated a response action at the site to remove oil from the baler pit; excavated a limited area of oil-saturated soil; and remove and dispose of cylinders, and drums and tankers filled with petroleum products and hazardous waste. In July 2006, the NJDEP completed the installation of a 465-foot fence with two gates at a portion of the unsecured site along St. Charles Street, which was the primary access for trespassers to the site. Later that year, additional fencing was added to encompass the entire site except for a small area at the rear of the site, near an inactive railroad spur.

During November 2006 and January 2007, EPA reconnoitered the site several times and there was evidence that persons were continuing to access the site even with the fencing. A site entry was completed in March 2007 to observe on-site conditions and to conduct air monitoring. In April 2007, 19 on-site and off-site surface soil sample and three wastewater samples were collected. All samples collected were found to have high levels of lead and PCBs.

Based on the available information, a removal cleanup is warranted at the site to address the potential threats posed to the community surrounding the site and the persons that enter on the site.